



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

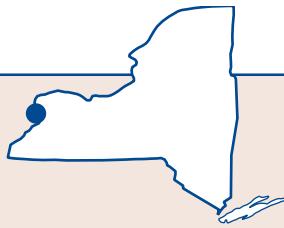
Center for Integrated Waste Management, SUNY-Buffalo, NY

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders in economic development to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. The brownfields job training grants provide residents of communities impacted by brownfields with the skills and training needed to effectively gain employment in assessment and cleanup activities associated with brownfield redevelopment and environmental remediation. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

The Center for Integrated Waste Management, State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY-Buffalo) was selected to receive a job training grant. The training will target residents of Buffalo, Lackawanna,



Job Training Grant

\$141,764

EPA has selected the Center for Integrated Waste Management, State University of New York at Buffalo (SUNY-Buffalo) for a job training grant. SUNY-Buffalo plans to train 70 individuals, place a minimum of 63 graduates in environmental jobs, and track students for at least one year. The training program will include 300 hours of in-class and on-site instruction in a variety of skill areas needed for employment in the environmental field. Hazardous waste site worker, asbestos handler, and OSHA safety construction certifications will be offered. SUNY-Buffalo will conduct the training. The program will enroll disadvantaged individuals from brownfields-impacted areas in the target communities. The applicant and its partners will provide job readiness and job placement assistance to the graduates. Two Workforce Investment Boards have committed to financially supporting companies that provide work experience or internships to the graduates.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 2 Brownfields Team

212-637-4314

<http://www.epa.gov/region02/brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Center for Integrated Waste Management, SUNY-Buffalo, NY

716-645-3446

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

Niagara Falls, and Niagara County (combined population 531,539). Parts of each of these communities are located within federal Empowerment Zone/Enterprise Communities or Renewal Communities. This area of western New York State once benefitted from a vibrant economy based on heavy industry, including iron and steel production, chemical manufacturing, and materials processing. Following a gradual restructuring of its industrial base, this region has been unable to replace the number or quality of jobs lost from the closure or divestiture of many industries. As a result, the area has experienced a substantial out-migration. The unemployment rate in Niagara County is consistently higher than national and state averages. In Buffalo, the third poorest city in the country, nearly 27 percent of residents live in poverty. The median household income in Lackawanna is 32 percent lower than the state-wide median, and a third of the population lives in poverty. Niagara County has more than 700 brownfields and numerous other sites contaminated with hazardous substances. Increasing redevelopment of contaminated sites is driving the demand for environmental technician jobs.